Organized Growers

COPY

Salinas Lettuce Strike, 1936

Claim of: Lake Erie Chemical Co.
To: Sheriff's Department, County of Monterey
For: Materials and supplies

50 watchman's club shells
10 tear gas jumper repeater candles
10 K.O. and tear gas candles
10 tear gas model 34 candles
1 Truflite long range gun #1167
30 long range KO and tear gas shells
24 short range tear gas shells

Claim of: Federal Laboratories, Inc.
To: Sheriff's Department, County of Monterey
For: Maintenance and operation

2	25 MM riot pistols
21	1 1/2" Cal.gas riot guns
15	25 MM riot pistol shells
5	1 1/2" cal.short range cartridges CN
156	1 1/2" cal. speedheat projectiles CN
144	" " " " DM
17	" " Fliterite " CN
10	" " parachute flares
155	Grenades, jumbo speedheat CN
31	Grenades, jumbo speedheat DM
78	Grenades, triple chaser
5	Grenades, vest pocket
35	M-29 Billies
68	M-39 Billies
8	M-39 Billies - Long barrel
140	M-29 Billie cartridges
85	M-39 Billie cartridges
3	.405 Cal. tear gas guns
1	.44 cal. cartridge CN
1	.45 cal. cartridge CN
44	.10 Ga. Cartridges CN
51	.12 Ga. Cartridges CN
10	.20 Ga. cartridge CN
4	.410 Cal. cartridges CN
13	Type GB gas masks
12	1 1/2" cal. short range cartridges DM

Less 10% quantity discount

Claim of: Central Hardware Company
55 clubs
2 box .38 automatic cartridges
1 box .38 SW special
2 box .20 Gauge shortgun shells
3 box 30/30 cartridges
2 box .32 automatic Colt
2 box .32 S & W shorts
2 box .32/.20 cartridges
3 box .38 S & W cartridges

Claim of: Federal Protection Service
To: California Highway Patrol, Monterey County Court House

94 long range DM projectiles
58 long range CN projectiles
31 jumbo DM grenades
101 speedheat CN grenades
13 triple chaster CN grenades
12 M-29 tear gas billies
24 pocket grenades
67 flite-rite CN barricade projectiles
44 .10 guage tear gass shells
45 .12 gauge tear gas shells
28 .20 gauge tear gas shells
23 410 gauge tear gas shells
3 405 gauge tear gas pens
12 405 gauge tear gas cartridges
50 short range CN shells
25 short range DM shells
50 long range CN projectiles
50 long range DM projectiles
48 jumbo CN grenades
48 jumbo triple chaster CN grenades

Claim of: Salinas Hardware
To: County of Monterey
25 sledge handles
20 pick handles
22 shovel handles
8 eye hoe handles
1 box 12 gauge Climax Heavy shotgun shells
4 hanks sash cord
9 hanks twine
21 5/16 raw hides

Delivered to armory

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UNION HALL RAIDED IN GUN SEARCH
Salinas, Sept. 17, 1936. Fearing new bloodshed in this strike-torn area, a mile-long motorcade of heavily armed citizens and special deputy sheriffs patrolled this city tonight and swept the streets clean of the strikers.

As secrety and apparently reliable information was received that... radicals are arming militant lettuce strikers with firearms, the long line of a Salinas citizen army began forming outside the Sheriff's office late today and soon was under way to Miller Hall, two miles east of the city, where the strikers have an...unofficial hangout.

Led by Sheriff Carl Abbott...the citizen army suddenly descended on the hall and made a thorough search for a cache of guns supposedly hidden there. None was found, but the impromptu army was told to stand by for further eventualities...

Salinas, Sept. 16, 1936. A flying wedge of special deputies cleared Salinas streets of striking lettuce workers late today while authorities poured more police and gas supplies into the trouble area and hinted at militia action...

Salinas, Sept. 15, 1936 (AP). Two police gas bomb barrages today drove pickets away from barricaded sheds where nonunion workers began packing lettuce that had been left in the fields by an eleven-day strike of organized vegetable workers. Police first gassed a crowd of 500 milling pickets who had...hurled red pepper at some of the truck drivers.

That clean-up left the barricaded sheds free for a time but about 1000 workers gathered about the place again. The officers said they feared the crowd would rush the barricade and ordered it back. The pickets hesitated to comply and a second gas bomb attack drove them back.

Fourteen pickets were arrested, bringing to twenty-two the number taken into custody in two days.

Salinas, Sept. 17, 1936. ...A scene which perhaps has not beenrivalled since the World War took place here this morning when forty-two lettuce trucks paraded through the city to one of the major packing plants... Here they were met by more than a score of State highway patrol automobiles, all filled with officers heavily armed. Citizens with guns and clubs lined the highways. The cabs of the trucks were inclosed in heavy wire and sticking out of holes were the steel barrels of shotguns.

In the face of this business-like set-up nothing happened...

The situation was generally construed as a victory for Sheriff Abbott... In fact, the unique situation developed to where the union leaders were loudly demanding "law and order" and withdrawing their pickets until "the right of peaceful picketing" was guaranteed them.

ANTI-PICKETING LAW PASSED

Salinas, Oct. 2, 1936 (AP). Monterey County supervisors passed an anti-picketing ordinance today over vigorous protest of striking lettuce workers' representatives... The ordinance...provides maximum penalties of six months in jail and a $500 fine.

Salinas, Oct. 4, 1936 (UP). Lettuce strikers and the workers who replaced them in the packing sheds held a pitched battle on streets of Salinas tonight... Police and special officers, equipped with tear gas bombs, scattered the fighters and arrested eleven men, who, police said, are strikers.

Salinas, April 13, 1937 (AP). Reserve Army Col. Henry R. Sanborn, anti-radical publisher and police "co-ordinatory" in last fall's lettuce strike, today challenged the right of the National Labor Relations Board to investigate his activities and refused to answer many questions "on advice of counsel."

Salinas, April 22, 1937 (AP). Chief of Police George Griffin of Salinas refused today to appear ata National Labor Relations Board hearing and produce data requested in a Federal subpoena...

(ED. NOTE: The issue in the strike was not wages (55¢ an hour was prevailing) but preferential hiring of union members. The strike was lost. The Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association of Monterey County, Inc., set up a blacklist of all who had taken part in the strike.)

(ED. NOTE: The "citizen army" refèrred to in the news dispatches numbered 2,048 men deputized by Sheriff Abbott -- from a town with a tot[illegible] at that time of 14,000!)

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